

# Earned Income Tax Credit



## Need Cash? Don't know if you qualify for the **EITC**?

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a tax credit for people who work hard and don't make much money. You must meet certain requirements to be eligible.

There's a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit. But the most important thing to know is that you can get help figuring it all out.

Find out if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit by calling [1-800-829-3676](tel:1-800-829-3676) for the free IRS Publication 596, titled *Earned Income Credit*. Visit the IRS on the web at [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or call [1-800-TAX-1040](tel:1-800-TAX-1040).

If you qualify for the EITC you may get your taxes done for free by certified IRS tax preparers at a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site.

Over eighteen million people throughout the country already benefited from the Earned Income Tax Credit. Don't know if you qualify? Don't worry, help is just a phone call away!



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The Virginia Department of Social Services

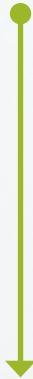




The Earned Income Tax Credit is a tax credit for people who work hard and don't make much money. You must meet certain requirements to be eligible. There's a lot to know about qualifying for the Earned Income Tax Credit. But the most important thing to know is you can get help figuring it all out. Review the new requirements for the 2008 tax year. Be sure to avoid the common mistakes listed below when figuring out if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit.



**Don't guess  
whether you qualify for the EITC**



**Know  
if you qualify for the EITC**



#### **To claim the EITC, taxpayers must meet the following rules**

- Must have earned income
- Must have a valid Social Security Number
- Investment income is limited to \$2,950
- Filing status can't be "married filing separately"
- Generally must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year
- Cannot be a qualifying child of another person
- Cannot file Form 2555 or 2555-EZ (related to foreign earned income)

#### **Qualifying Child Criteria**

A qualifying child cannot be used by more than one person to claim the EITC

The child must meet the relationship, age and residency tests.

If you don't have a qualifying child:

- You must be at least age 25, but under 65
- You cannot qualify as the dependent of another person
- You must have lived in the United States more than half the tax year

#### **Filing status**

You cannot be married filing separately



For more info:  
Visit [www.irs.gov/eitc](http://www.irs.gov/eitc) or  
Call 1-800-TAX-1040 to speak with an IRS representative.

#### **Proper Income Reporting**

If you have worked and have earned income less than:

- \$12,880 (\$15,880 if married filing jointly) if there is no qualifying child you may be eligible for a credit of up to \$438
- \$33,995 (\$36,995 if married filing jointly) if there is one qualifying child you may be eligible for a credit of up to \$2,917
- \$38,646 (\$41,646 if married filing jointly) if there is more than one qualifying child you may be eligible for a credit of up to \$4,824
- Child Tax Credit is up to \$1,000 per dependent child. The additional Child Tax Earnings Threshold is \$12,050 in 2008.

#### **Common errors to avoid**

- Taxpayers claim a child who is not a qualifying child
- Married taxpayers who should file as married filing separately instead file as single or head of household
- Income-reporting errors
- Taxpayers or qualifying children with incorrect Social Security numbers